

families, a courage and determination that made the 9/11 Commission possible, overcoming opposition here and across town.

We have an obligation to keep faith with those who perished and with the families they left behind. The best way we can do that is to take the 9/11 Commission recommendations seriously and act on them with dispatch.

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For a new generation of Americans, the phrase "Remember Pearl Harbor" has been replaced by "Remember 9/11."

Madam Speaker, let us honor those that we lost and the loved ones they left behind by acting expeditiously and in a bipartisan fashion to bring the 9/11 Commission recommendations to reality.

#### INTRODUCING H.R. 5038, THE AMERICAN HEROES ACT

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, we will soon double the size of this Capitol, adding a new Visitors Center. As the first thing visitors see, this space must reflect the values of our Nation and the way it inspires young Americans to public service.

Today I am leading a bipartisan group of Members to introduce the American Heroes Act, H.R. 5038. The act authorizes a statue honoring the people of United Flight 93 who fought the first battle in the war on terror over the skies of Pennsylvania. But for their sacrifice, the Capitol might have been destroyed.

We also authorize each State to add one new hero after essay contests in America's high schools. In this way, the new entrance to our temple of democracy will have new heroes adding to the pantheon in the Capitol.

As we approach the third anniversary of September 11, let us honor the heroes of Flight 93 who gave their lives to protect Washington, and let us also make sure that when this Capitol expands, it is filled with men and women who inspire us, especially young Americans, to public service.

#### MISSING CLASSMATES

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, as children across the country begin a new school year, some do so with missing classmates. The problem with child abduction goes on.

Seven months ago Monday, Carlie Brucia's remains were found after a stranger took her at a gas station. Now the seventh-graders at McIntosh Middle School in Florida are missing their classmate.

Three weeks ago, 7-year-old Patricia Miles was found suffocated after going

on a bike ride in Arkansas. Children at Turrell Elementary School are also missing a classmate today.

Missing children from every walk of life, in many circumstances: stranger abduction, parental abduction, international abduction, all need our attention. Next Friday I will host a child safety forum for southeast Texans, and I call on members of the caucus and on all of my colleagues to hold similar events across the country. We must empower Carlie and Patricia's classmates and all children to know and use safety rules.

#### ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO EXPIRE

(Mr. CASTLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to express urgency and remind the House that the existing ban on semiautomatic assault weapons will expire in only a few days, this coming Monday, September 13.

Reports continue to show that 70 percent of Americans believe that the ban should be maintained. In fact, the law enforcement community, the health care community, and the administration all agree that this ban should be allowed to continue to protect our communities from our increased vulnerability associated with allowing semiautomatic weapons back on our streets.

Some say that we do not have the votes to extend this ban, but Americans deserve a full debate and a House vote before we allow the expiration date to pass.

There is no reason not to go forward at this point; we have only 5 days left.

Do people need an assault weapon to protect their home? No. Do people need an assault weapon to hunt? No. Do people need an assault weapon to target shoot? No. But criminals use assault weapons to kill.

The ban should not be allowed to expire. I implore leadership to let us vote on continuing the ban.

#### RIISING HEALTH CARE COSTS

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the rising health care costs facing our seniors.

This last week the administration announced that American seniors will face the largest premium increase in Medicare's history. Instead of roughly \$67, now it is going to go up to \$78 a month for their Medicare Part B premiums.

The difference amounts to a huge increase, far exceeding inflation or any potential cost-of-living adjustment that our seniors receive under Social Security. This adds to the Government

Accounting Office just last week asking for part of the salary back from the person who withheld information from this Congress when we passed the Medicare reform bill last year.

We should not force our seniors to bear the brunt of the increased cost of Medicare. The administration's actions will force them to come up with an extra \$132 a year just to cover the increased premium. For the average senior receiving Social Security, this represents 10 percent of their monthly budget. Unfortunately, if precedent is any indicator, seniors will continue to see double-digit Medicare premium increases under a second Bush administration.

It is downright shameful to saddle our seniors with the cost of the administration's failed health policies. America's seniors deserve better.

#### MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT IRAQ

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the war in Iraq is one that we all understand is not easily won. The enemy does not play by our rules of engagement. They have no conscience, they have no decency, they have no moral compass.

Yet the same anger, arrogance, and ignorance that fuels these terrorists who have lashed out at citizens across the globe is now, according to JOHN KERRY, a sign of the Iraqi people's "frustration" with the Bush administration.

Yes, there are pockets of resistance within Iraq, but KERRY's assertion that the Iraqis are acting out in political dissension with the Bush administration's military strategy is ludicrous.

Madam Speaker, Iraqis are not lashing out through political activism, they are shooting American soldiers. They are killing the very same people who have come to help them. Mr. KERRY should be more focused on reality and less on political rhetoric. Our soldiers have risked it all to liberate Iraq and the Iraqi people.

#### SO-CALLED ECONOMIC RECOVERY

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss our so-called "economic recovery."

Last week I visited a woman in my district named Carol Jones. Nine months ago Carol had a job at an investment firm, a steady income, a health care plan, and a pension. But she had something more. She had security.

Then, like so many others struggling to get by, Carol was laid off, went on for months on end without a job, supporting herself on unemployment benefits and, when those ran out, her savings, which are now all but depleted.